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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

THOMAS A. DOLLAR, M.R.C.V.S.

AT THE

OPENING OF THE 72ND SESSION OF

ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE

EDINBURGH, 3RD OCTOBER 1894



PRESENTATION TO THE TRUSTEES

OF

MISS DICK'S PORTRAIT

AND

REPORT OF THE BANQUET GIVEN TO THE LORD PROVOST,
MAGISTRATES, AND TOWN COUNCIL, AND LEADING
MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL AND
VETERINARY PROFESSIONS

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PROFESSORIAL STAFF OF THE ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE.





MR DOLLAR.

MY LORD PROVOST, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — The name of William Dick is by common consent placed at the head of the Scottish School of Veterinarians, and may justly be included amongst those of the foremost men of any country who have devoted their lives to the practice and improvement of this special branch of knowledge. Born at a time when the science of veterinary medicine had made but little progress, Dick was distinguished by the breadth and enlightenment of his views, by his remarkable powers of observation, and by his untiring energy in the pursuit and teaching of his calling. Though pre-eminently a clinician, Dick was in no respect inferior in general attainments to the best Veterinarians of his time; and whatever their opinion of his political views, none of his contemporaries could question his ability. Many of these were good anatomists, some were skilful surgeons, a few were enlightened pathologists, but, to a knowledge of the subjects they taught and practised not less accurate than their own, he added the further gift of exceptionally rapid and just diagnosis. This was especially marked in determining lameness; and the story obtains credence to the present day that from his room over the archway Professor Dick could detect the lame leg, and even the seat of the lameness, merely by hearing the horse trot in the street below.

However that may be, he certainly possessed the powers both of a great practitioner and a great teacher, and, combined with these, those higher moral qualifications without which mere learning is of little value. He seldom failed to rouse the sympathies of his pupils or to impress on them much of his own peculiar character. To all who studied under him he extended his willing assistance in after-life, and the worldly success of his students was often due to the continued and judicious advice he was ever ready to afford them. Arago, speaking of James Watt, said that in the writings or models of that great inventor the germs might be found of all the improvements that have since been made in the construction of the steam-engine, and in like manner it may be said that a vast amount of the knowledge Veterinarians till recently possessed might be found foreshadowed or suggested or actually adopted in the writings, experiments, or practice of William Dick. An intense lover of horses, he was often revolted during his younger days by the cruelties practised on them in disease; and having in vain urged on the notice of the public the necessity for systematic teaching in veterinary surgery, he resolved to consecrate his life to the foundation of an efficient college and to the elevation of the profession he had resolved to make his own. His Memoirs are so well-known to many of those whom I see around me to-day that it is unnecessary to do more than briefly sketch his life, but it may be well to show the younger members of the profession, for their encouragement and example, with how few advantages he commenced, and how his great position was built up by unflagging energy, devotion to his students, and high professional integrity.

The house in which William Dick was born has now passed away, together with many other landmarks of the Edinburgh of my student days. It was situated in the White Horse Close, so named from the inn which once flourished there. The exact date of Mr Dick's birth is uncertain, though it is known to have taken place in May 1793.

His early surroundings were peculiarly adapted for developing his latent powers, and there is no doubt that the natural bent of his mind towards the study of animals received a powerful impulse from his early and constant association with them. The birthplaces of distinguished men always possess a certain interest, and a short description by an



WHITE HORSE CLOSE.

eye-witness of the appearance of the White Horse Close towards the end of the eighteenth century may perhaps prove interesting to the rising generation. "A sort of *porte cochère* gives access to a court having mean buildings on either hand, but presenting in the centre a goodly structure of antique fashion, with two outside stairs curiously arranged. A date over the door gives assurance of the seventeenth century, and, judging from the style of building, belonging to an early portion of that age. The ground floor, acces-

sible from the North Back of Canongate, has been used as stables.

“This house, supposed to have been styled the White Horse Inn or Stables, would be conveniently situated for persons travelling to or arriving from London, being close to the ancient exit of the town in that direction. The adjacent Watergate took its name from a horse pond which probably was an appendage to the mansion. In the days of the White Horse Inn, a traveller going to London would present himself at the house, armed with a pair of saddle bags and booted for riding, and engage and mount a suitable roadster which would serve him all the way.

“The White Horse has ceased to be an inn from a time which no ‘oldest inhabitant’ of our era could pretend to have any recollection of. It is almost a matter of course that Dr Johnson on arriving in Edinburgh in 1773, should have come to the White Horse, which was then kept by a person named Boyd. The latter was at one time on the brink of ruin, but being saved by a lucky bet on a white horse, he had out of gratitude kept the animal idle all the rest of its days, and had taken its portrait as his sign.”

It will therefore be seen that from an early period William Dick had plentiful opportunities of becoming acquainted with horses, not only in the crowded yard of the White Horse Inn, but in his father’s shop, where they came to be shod or doctored.

The boy’s childhood was passed in and about Edinburgh, and whilst he imbibed the desire for learning so notable in the Scottish character, he was enthusiastic in all manner of sports, and acquired that strong and healthy frame which enabled him to bear the strain and stress of a life of incessant activity and severe mental toil.

His father was an ambitious man, and took care to equip him with the best general education he could afford, including rhetoric and mathematics, and there is little doubt that during his period of service at home, the young man employed to the full those educational advantages which

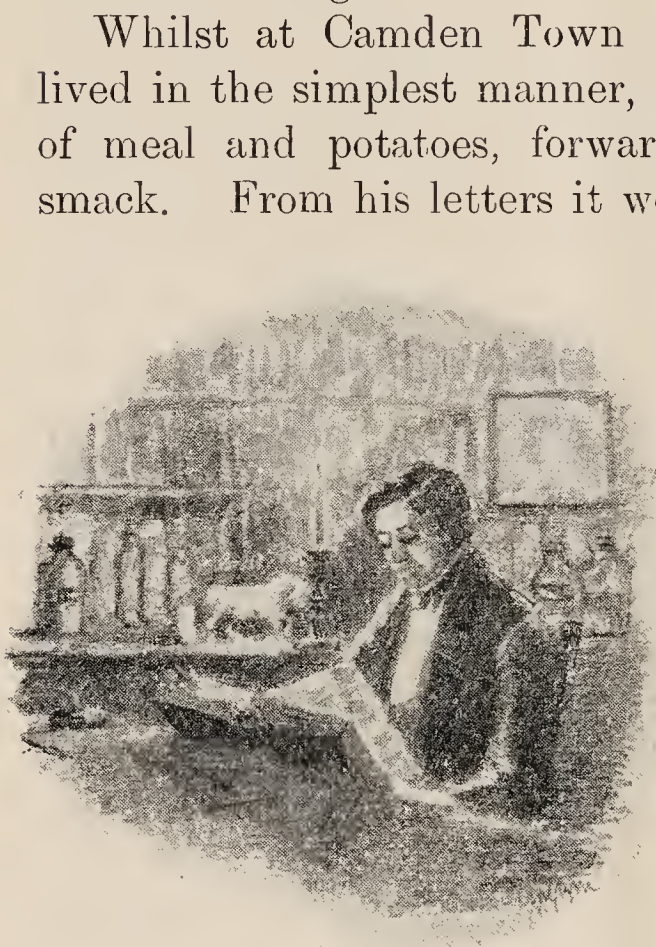
Edinburgh so plentifully affords at the present day, and for which it was equally famous a century ago. He was especially fond of books on horses, and one of the earliest he purchased was "Taplin's Farriery Improved." In 1817 he was introduced by a medical friend to Dr Barclay's Lectures at the Medical and Surgical School of Practical and Comparative Anatomy, which appear to have made a powerful impression on him.

Thenceforward he was insatiable in acquiring medical knowledge, and having gained access to the demonstrations of Professor Gregory on the practice of Physic, and of Professor Hope on Chemistry, he spent his time in going from teacher to teacher like a travelling student of the Middle Ages. A good story is told of how Professor Barclay snubbed some of Dick's fellow-students who thought to detract from his partiality for the young man by informing the professor that he was only a common blacksmith. "Well, well," said the professor, "All I can say is, that whether he be blacksmith or whitesmith, he's the cleverest fellow amongst you."

To complete his education he set out the same year (1817) for London, for the purpose of following the course at the London Veterinary College. Coleman was at that time Principal, having succeeded to the office about 1792 on the death of Vial St Bel. He was a man of considerable talent, and although he had obtained little knowledge from books, he was an original observer, and had reflected much on all that came under his notice. Hence, although in many respects behind the knowledge of the day, he had peculiar and extensive funds of information of his own. Like his predecessor, St Bel, he seems to have devoted his attention solely to the horse, to the utter neglect of other domestic animals; and at the time William Dick arrived in London the bi-weekly lectures dealt exclusively with equine medicine. Professor Coleman was then assisted by Mr Sewell, who afterwards succeeded him, and judging from the criticisms which appeared in the pages of the "Veterinarian" at a later date, the instruction was very defective. Such as it

was, however, Dick enjoyed it to the very utmost, though we often find him speaking of it in letters to his father in terms which throw a curious side light on the originality and sturdy independence of his mind. From one of these letters I quote the following:—

“Professor Coleman was ordering a horse’s soles to be fired, and I asked him how it would act. He said it would harden the sole; but I asked him if it would not produce a greater growth of horn. He said no. This was a flat-soled horse, and a newish plan to harden the sole. We have another one which is foundered, or, as they call it, with inflamed laminæ; so I asked him if thinning his soles was a good practice. He said no—which seems to be a change of his doctorings.”



Whilst at Camden Town he worked unceasingly, and lived in the simplest manner, part of his dietary consisting of meal and potatoes, forwarded from home by a Leith smack. From his letters it would appear that he not only

noted at full length the lectures of the professors, but that he kept a very perfect case-book, in which were recorded the symptoms, progress, and treatment of the patients, as well as his own reflections and suggestions. In spring he rose at dawn, and commenced to transcribe and study the previous day’s work. At seven he breakfasted, and at eight was in

attendance at college either to review the hospital patients, or to see the fresh ones before the professor appeared. Thenceforward until evening he was to be found at college, either at lectures or in the anatomy-room. His evenings were occupied in study, which seldom terminated

before midnight. It must be remembered that at that time the amount of knowledge possessed on veterinary subjects was very meagre, the chief works in English being general treatises on horsemanship, like those of Clater, Stevenson, Topham, and others. A few useful books on cattle medicine had, however, been published, and on the Continent several magnificent additions had been made to our literature, chief of which was Solleysel's great work on the horse. The principle that the estimation in which any object is held is enhanced by the difficulty of obtaining it, added zest to the young man's study of veterinary medicine, which he pursued with extraordinary ardour. Having acquired all the information which it was in the power of Professors Coleman and Sewell to impart, William Dick presented himself for examination, and on the 27th January 1818 obtained his diploma. He soon afterwards returned to Scotland.

It was at this time that his course in life was determined. Putting on one side the choice of private practice, in which he might have amassed a large fortune, he adopted the advice of his friend, Professor Barclay, and devoted himself to the task of raising—I might almost say creating—the veterinary profession in Scotland. In the year 1819 there was no veterinary school in Scotland, while the entire list of qualified practitioners scarcely comprised a dozen names. The practice of the art was confined to farriers, cow-leeches, shepherds, and wise women, who, whilst ignorant of the rudiments of medicine, in many cases practised most barbarous outrages on the patients that came under their hands. A writer on horses—a Mr Lawrence—gives an amusing account of his experience with one of these cow-doctors in a work published in the year 1810. An infectious disorder had broken out amongst his pigs, and whilst many died, the survivors remained in a very unthrifty state. The weather was hot and the styes full, and Lawrence having consulted his own surgeon, received the very wise advice to give the animals plenty of fresh air and to administer laxative medicines. His overlooker, however, had heard of a famous

cow-leech or farrier at a distance of about forty miles, a man of such sovereign skill that no disease could baffle him, and who, the overlooker shrewdly observed, must surely know better how to treat pigs than the surgeon, who only knew how to doctor Christians. As Lawrence remarks, he was, of all mankind, the least likely to have faith in the possibility of modern miracles. However, he acquiesced, the man of practice was sent for, and after making a bargain for his fee, he set out, with ample promises of putting everything to rights in a short time. Lawrence had already repented more than once, and the first conversation he had with the doctor evidently showed he had just cause. The quack talked volubly, as such men generally do, who are totally ignor-



ant of the nature of disease, who are not apprised of the necessary connection between cause and effect, and who never fatigue their brains with studying the doctrine of analogies. I cannot do better than use the author's own words in describing the result. "This skilful leech went into my styes and cut off about half the tails from a considerable number of the fattest of my hogs. About an hour afterwards I was sent for in great haste to bind them up, that the patients might not bleed to death, and there the matter ended, for I have never set eyes on the doctor or heard tale or tiding of him from that hour to this."

The works written by these practitioners, for they certainly produced them, were of the most extraordinary

character. They seem to have been put together by some penny-a-liner or apothecary, to whom the farrier or leech poured out his twenty, forty, or fifty years' experience much as one might turn forth the contents of a rag bag, and who expunged, added, or amended, as he thought necessary, and then arranged the "New and Original Practical Treatise," and put it into intelligible English. I was lately perusing such a work. It is a diminutive but high-priced book of 130 small pages, and was written by a person named Downing, a country cattle doctor of note. The author seems to place particular importance on his recipes, and in some cases they seem fairly appropriate, but his observations are few indeed when considered as the professed result of many years' practice, and the description of the pathology and symptoms of the diseases he describes are so vague and confused as to afford little information, but the doctor indulged in fine words, which doubtless helped to sell his book. The general character of the work and the pathological information of its author are perhaps best illustrated by the following short quotation:—"Dysentery.—The cause of this disease may be anything that constricts the external habit, either constipating or lubricating the fluids beyond their due tone, forcing an insurrection upon the vessels so as to rupture them," &c., &c. He then prescribes a draught of dragon's blood, nitre, roche alum, bole, rhubarb, and red sanders; next an injection, afterwards nitre, prepared steel, red sanders, and bole; and lastly, a purging draught composed of Epsom salts, bole, and cream of tartar. Upon the virtues of this latter, which he seems to view as a universal cure-all, the doctor holds forth in the most inflated terms.

From such illustrations the ignorance and incapability of the farriers and cow-leeches of the last century may be judged. These charlatans Dick superseded. By his indefatigable exertions he qualified himself as already indicated to train a generation of practical veterinarians, and thus greatly benefited the agriculture of his country.

Dick's start as a teacher was necessarily a modest one. Under the auspices of a Mr Scott, who was then establishing a School of Arts in Edinburgh, he delivered a course of lectures during the session 1819-20 in the Freemason's Hall in Niddry Street; but this institution not succeeding, he took an unfurnished shop in Nicolson Street, where he continued his course, at which we are credibly informed he sometimes had but one attendant. Looking round me to-day on the distinguished audience assembled in this building to do



honour to the memory of Professor Dick, it seems difficult to believe that seventy years ago he was an unknown man, in an obscure quarter of this town struggling to advance his calling, and only too happy when his efforts were rewarded with the attention of a single auditor.

He never became discouraged, however, and in 1821 we find him teaching under the patronage of the Edinburgh School of Arts, whilst the next year he lectured independently at the Calton Convening Rooms. Here he had better success, and obtaining the assistance of the Lord Provost, endeavoured to induce the Senatus Academicus of the Edinburgh University to found a Chair of Comparative

Anatomy, embracing Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. The Senate, however, declined, thinking it better that any Veterinary College should be independent of the University.

In 1823 the Highland and Agricultural Society, which has always evinced so enlightened an interest in the welfare of the country, conferred on Mr Dick their patronage and support. Then commenced that period of prosperity which has never since suffered interruption. The course at first consisted of anatomy and clinical instruction, and was in 1827 supplemented by admission to the lectures of several medical professors.

About the same time there was built at Clyde Street a

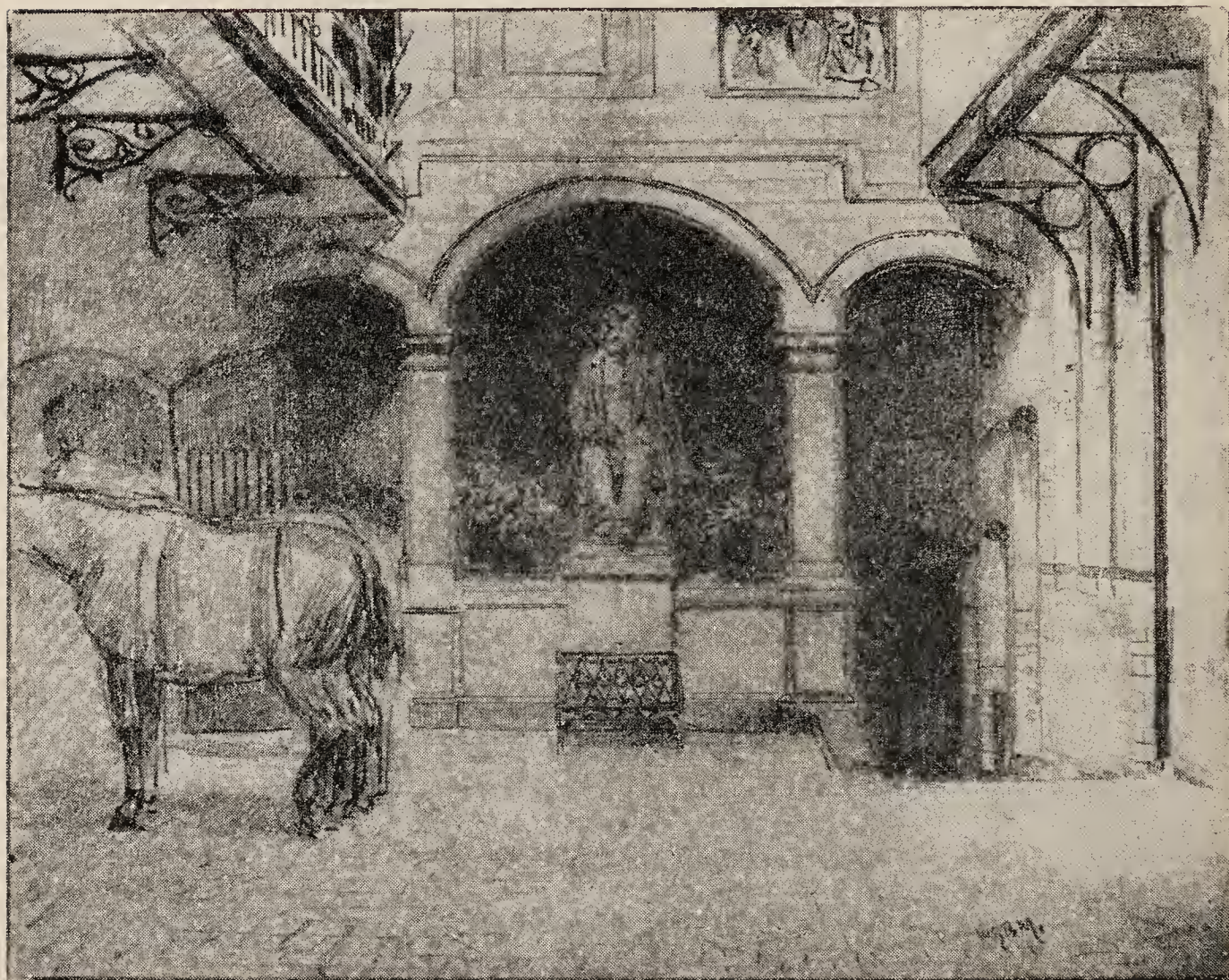


temporary hospital and forge, which in 1833 were replaced by more pretentious buildings, erected entirely at Professor Dick's expense at a cost of £2500. The course of study at this time comprised not only the diseases of the horse, but some reference was made to those of the other domesticated animals. In this respect the instruction was in advance of that at Camden Town.

An Army Veterinarian, Mr Castley, in 1830, wrote an interesting and somewhat sarcastic letter to the "Veterinarian" on the newly established college, in which he says :—

"There is no room for Mr Dick's chair within the walls of the great, the proud University of Edinburgh. The elder sister seems to disown the relationship, or, secretly ashamed of the Cinderella, scarcely acknowledges the con-

nection. Here then, even at the headquarters of medicine, veterinary surgery may be said to stand entirely on its own bottom; and it has to be tried by the measure of its own utility. It has not been taken in tow by the elder science—it has not experienced the fostering care of academical honours—it lacks the polish and advantage of a gown—it



NORTH END OF QUADRANGLE.

presents rather a rough exterior, but still it seems to thrive. Mr Dick has a very considerable and yearly increasing class. The Edinburgh school is entirely of his own creation; and I am happy to see he is likely to reap the fruits of his great perseverance, his zeal, and his talents.”

Castley’s description of the old Hall, which was swept away many years before my time, is also very vivid:—

“You may fancy to yourself,” he says, “a room of no very great dimensions in an old and apparently long un-

tenanted house in Clyde Street. You enter it from the street door and are immediately struck with the delightful confusion which seems to reign within. Skeletons of all descriptions, from a horse to an ape, not ranged in regular order 'all of a row,' but standing higgeldy-piggeldy, their ranks having been broken by the professor's table, and their heads looking in all directions, as if thrown together by chance. Over the professor's 'devoted head' is seen suspended an inflated and injected intestine with its mesenteric expansion dangling in the air, something like a lure for flies; whilst all around the room, and especially in the corners, are heaped together vast quantities of diseased bones and other preparations, seemingly without order and without arrangement. Here we see no numbered specimens—no classification of morbid anatomy—no description book—all of which would tend to give the collection a *pretty effect*; yet the lecturer has not only sufficient, but abundance for his purpose. His table is always covered with choice preparations. Of that portion of the house which is set apart for the audience, the best thing I can say is that whenever I have dropped in I have always found it *remarkably* well filled. It is fitted up with rough deal planks, set upon as rough props; the seats rising tier above tier until your head touches the top of a very dark-coloured ceiling. Of my friend Professor Dick I may be allowed to say, without suspicion of flattery, that he appears to know his subject perfectly; . . . and as a lecturer every year he is improving. His anatomical demonstrations are particularly clear, instructive, and satisfactory, and he seems to spare no pains in well grounding his pupils in this, perhaps of all others, the most necessary part of elementary knowledge."

In 1833 Professor Dick became one of the Editors of the "Veterinarian," which had for a long time been agitating that the teaching curriculum of the London College, instead of being confined to the horse, should be extended to cattle and sheep.

In 1838 he succeeded in obtaining the recognition of his diploma as qualifying for entrance to Her Majesty's army and that of the Honourable East India Company—a triumph indeed—as heretofore, Professor Coleman had entirely controlled the examinations and reserved for his own pupils all such appointments. A year later, in 1839, Mr James Robertson, a graduate of the Dick Veterinary College, passed his examination and was gazetted.

In 1844 the Royal Charter was obtained which raised the veterinary art to the dignity of a profession. In this document the Edinburgh College was recognised as in all respects equal to that of London, and obtained the same privileges and powers. Professor Dick became a Member of Council of the newly constituted Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and continued to hold office until his retirement by rotation in 1847.

A most important event in the history of this College was the appointment in 1844 of Professor Barlow to the Chairs of Anatomy and Physiology, and of Dr George Wilson, afterwards Regius Professor of Technology, and Director of the Industrial Museum of Scotland, to that of Chemistry. These gentlemen were in 1849 joined by Mr Finlay Dun, whose name has become a household word in all agricultural circles, and whose works on *Materia Medica* and kindred subjects have now for many years enjoyed a world-wide circulation.

During the first twenty-five years of his teaching Professor Dick was almost unassisted, and personally instructed his students in the narrower curriculum, which then comprised anatomy and physiology, medicine and surgery.

But it redounds greatly to his versatility and energy that thus single-handed he turned out so many capable men who attained first-class positions in their respective spheres. Of these may be mentioned John Steele of Biggar, a member of the Board of Examiners appointed by the Highland and Agricultural Society; William Aitken, who was associated with him as examiner in cattle pathology; William Ander-

son of Glasgow, who became Government Inspector for the County of Lanark; Cuthbert Simpson, John M'Lean, and John Lawson, all of whom acquired large practices. John Lawson was for many years Chairman of the Highland Society's Board, and afterwards occupied an honourable position on the Board of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In 1840 William Worthington, passed and afterwards became clinical assistant in this college; in 1842 Robert M'Robie graduated, and in 1844 John Borthwick of Kirkliston, both of whom subsequently were members of the Highland Society's Examining Board; while Peter Taylor of Manchester, who received his diploma in 1844, signalised himself as a distinguished practitioner.

All these men were imbued with Professor Dick's characteristics in a high degree. They have been specially marked by self-reliance, force of character, and clearheadedness, as well as by that tact which is so essential to the practitioner, whether of human or veterinary medicine.

In 1849 the teaching staff had been strengthened as I have shown, and consisted of Professors Dick, Barlow, Finlay Dun, Worthington, and Dr Wilson. There can be little doubt that in addition to the paramount influence of the old Professor, these assistants helped greatly to mould the minds of later students. Amongst these are some of the brightest lights of modern veterinary science.

I may mention the names of Francis Collins, J. B. Hallen, George Fleming, James Collins, and James Lambert, all of whom have risen to the position of Principal Veterinary Surgeon in Her Majesty's army, and the latter of whom still holds this most responsible and honourable position.

Of literary men of this period I would recall Mr Finlay Dun, of whom I have previously spoken; Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, whose work on Horses and Stables has attained a circulation unprecedented amongst veterinary publications; Dr George Fleming, who has contributed so much to our professional literature; Professors Robertson and Williams,

whose writings have tended greatly to the advance of our calling ; and Professor Strangeways, whose Anatomy still forms a valued text-book.

Gentlemen, this College has moreover given birth to some of the most distinguished teachers of our art. From it have sprung Principal Williams of the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh, who has also been signally honoured with the robe and office of Town Councillor. Principal M'Call of the Glasgow College acknowledges this as his Alma Mater. Principal Andrew Smith of Toronto and Principal



M'Eachran of Montreal, Professor Charles Rutherford of Aldershot, Mr Forbes Burn of Melbourne, and Mr Primrose M'Connell, all received their education within these walls, as did likewise my friend Professor Baird. The several notable men whose names I have enumerated, and who were or are upholding the reputation of this school in every quarter of the globe, have inherited in great measure the sterling qualities which distinguished Mr Dick.

In none were power of brain and goodness of heart more notable than in my dear friend and old fellow-student, Principal William Robertson of the London College, whose mantle has descended on your former most talented teacher, Principal M'Fadyean.



DISSECTING ROOM.

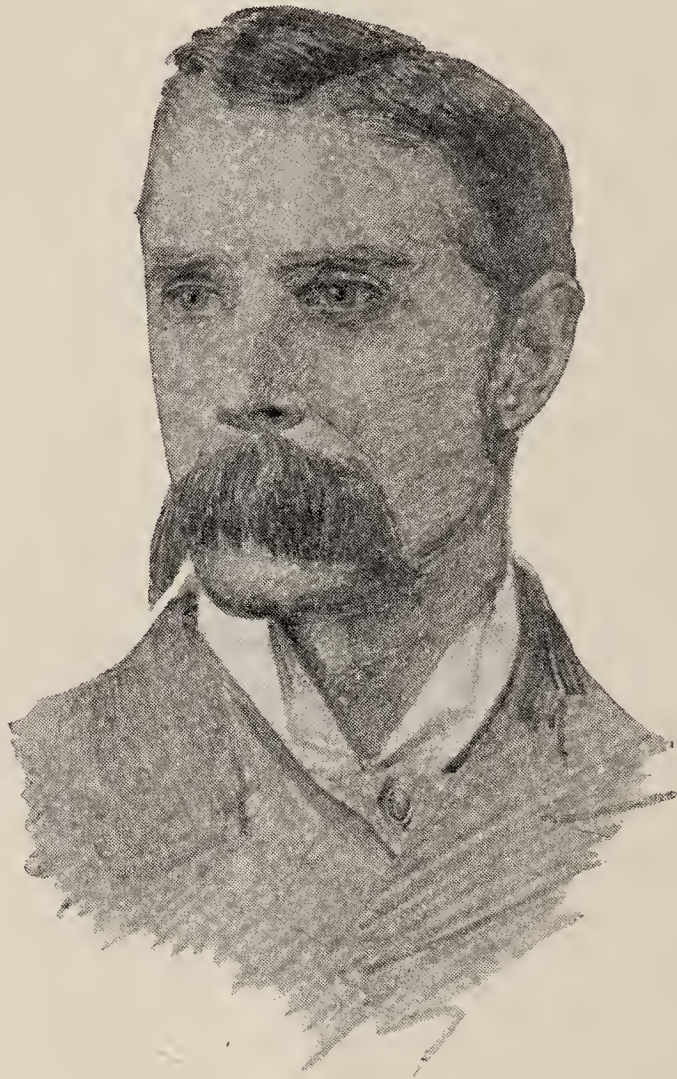
Besides these professional students, the school has done good work in imparting the principles of the veterinary art to country gentlemen, agriculturists, and young men destined to proceed to the Colonies, very many of whom declare that the knowledge acquired here has afforded them a wider field of general interest, and been of signal benefit to them throughout their varied careers.

In 1866 Professor Dick passed away, greatly lamented. By his will he endowed this College, and bequeathed it in trust to the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of the City of Edinburgh. Since its foundation, the College has been several times extended and partially rebuilt, and in 1886-87 it underwent such complete reconstruction as practically to have become an entirely new building. Miss Dick, who had never ceased to take a lively interest in the welfare of the College, died in the year 1883 at the advanced age of ninety-two, leaving to the endowment fund a further generous addition.

This College presents an unique example amongst the veterinary schools of the world, for whilst it has never received one penny from the State, it has steadily increased in scope and efficiency, and its history has been one of uninterrupted and solid progress. During Professor Dick's lifetime, and since his death, it has educated upwards of 1500 veterinary surgeons, and numbers amongst its graduates those occupying the highest and most responsible positions in the profession both at home and abroad. The reputation established by Professor Dick has been fully upheld, and the attendance last year was the highest attained—upwards of 300 students.

There has thus, gentlemen, been bequeathed to you the class-rooms, laboratories, dissecting-rooms, museum, and other accommodation for your ever-widening studies. You have a capable and zealous teaching staff, the achievements of the many successful men who have been educated here should stimulate your exertions, and moreover you have for further guidance the admirable example and the sound precepts of the founder of your College.

The only present cloud or cause for regret is that Principal Walley, who has for so many years successfully directed this great institution, is unable to be with you to-day. May his absence be of short duration, and may he return to you fully restored in health and ready again to take up those duties he has always so faithfully discharged.



PRINCIPAL WALLEY.

If William Dick could return to life and stand amidst us here to-day, he would see great improvements. He would find a united profession working harmoniously together, with the attention of its members increasingly directed as time rolls on towards the prevention as well as the cure of disease. He would hail with special delight the work of Pasteur and the experiments and researches of Sir Joseph Lister, for such experiments are not sterile, but have a direct bearing on practice. He would rejoice in the wider



DISSECTING ROOM.

horizon that has been opened up by the more accurate investigation of disease with the aid of the microscope and of such instruments as the thermometer, pleximeter, and the stethoscope ; and he would, I think, be lost in amazement at the minute and numerous details now considered requisite for the satisfactory consideration of any well-described case, but I can conceive nothing that would have been a greater pleasure to him than to enter the doors of this building and see the still extending and still developing outcome of his energy and self-denying spirit.

To those of my audience who this day stand on the threshold of their professional career, I earnestly commend the example of Professor Dick. His life teaches that however lowly the beginning, however great the obstacles to success, nothing is impossible to the man who firmly resolves to conquer. Let them, therefore, always bear in mind his early struggles and final triumph, and remember that they can best honour his memory by employing to the utmost the advantages he spent his life in providing for them.

I have now almost fulfilled the duty assigned to me.

I must, however, thank you for the patient hearing you have given me. I have experienced much pleasure in the preparation and delivering of this address, and I feel that our presence here to-day is a homage to the founder of this institution, our great teacher, the illustrious master in our noble craft—William Dick.

At the close of his Address, Mr Dollar presented to the Trustees the portrait of the late Miss Dick, and spoke as follows :—

My Lord Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The College at which we are educated is affectionately styled our Alma Mater. In coming to this school I found not only an Alma Mater, but a real mother, in the person of the founder's sister, Mary Dick.

When I entered as a student Miss Dick was not quite a young lady, but was active, smart, and trig.

Besides being a good housewife, she concerned herself with everything that went on within the college walls, took the greatest interest in the welfare of every student, made herself acquainted with all their outgoings and incomings, was not slow to note peccadilloes, and to reprimand the idle, the noisy, or the dissipated.

But her anxiety for the real good of her protégées made her kindly and helpful when they were in sickness or trouble.

Her devotion to her brother was unbounded. At his death she retired to a house built by him at Burntisland, where for many years I used to visit her annually, with my friend Mr Finlay Dun, after the Highland Society's examinations.

To the end of her life, which extended to the long age of ninety-two, her interest in the old place continued, she delighted to have any news of it, and of the students and how their examinations had been passed.

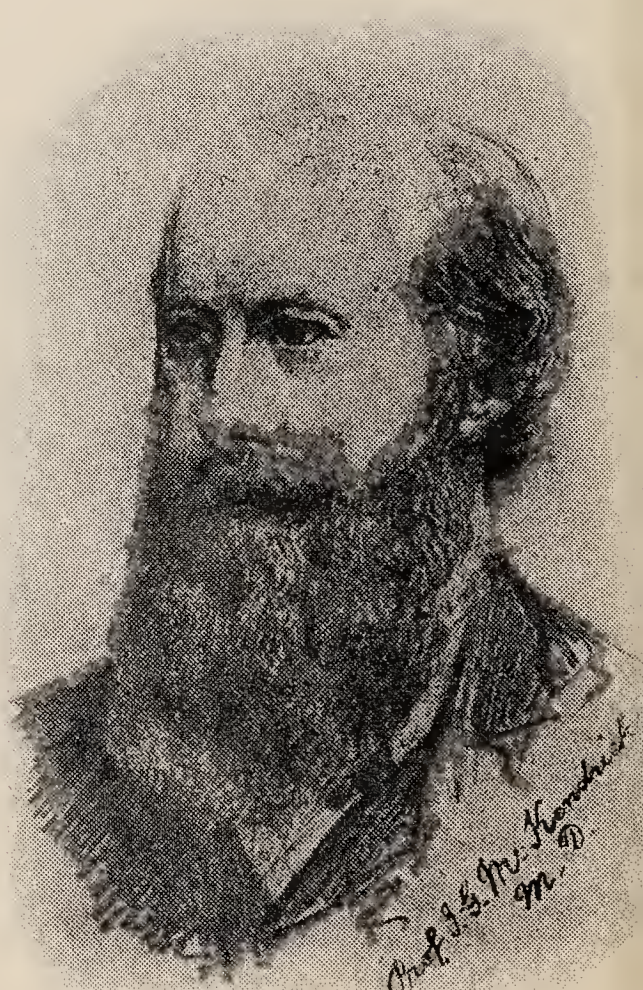
Her property she left to Sir William Turner, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh; Professor John Chiene, Professor of Surgery; and Professor M'Kendrick, Glasgow, in trust, one half to be devoted to the prosecution of comparative anatomy and pathology in the



Prof. Sir Wm. Turner
M.B., D.Sc., L.D.



Prof. John Chiens
M.D.



Prof. J.S. Mr. Hendrick
M.D.

University of Edinburgh, the other half to be devised to the Dick College. The portrait now to be unveiled I had painted by Mr J. E. Christie, of London, and it gives a very good idea of Mary Dick.

It will, I trust, keep green in the minds of many generations of students the memory of a lady who, during nearly fifty years, exercised so beneficent an influence on those connected with this institution, and with great pleasure I now present the portrait to the College.

Professor Colin Baird, M.R.C.V.S., presented to the Trust a portrait of Professor Dick. The brother and sister, he said, had been most devoted to each other, had throughout life been closely associated, and it was fitting that their likenesses should together adorn the walls of the Institution they had founded and endowed.

The Lord Provost thanked Mr Dollar for his admirable address ; and, in the name of the Trustees, he thanked Mr Dollar for the gift of Miss Dick's portrait, and Mr Baird for the gift of the portrait of the Professor.

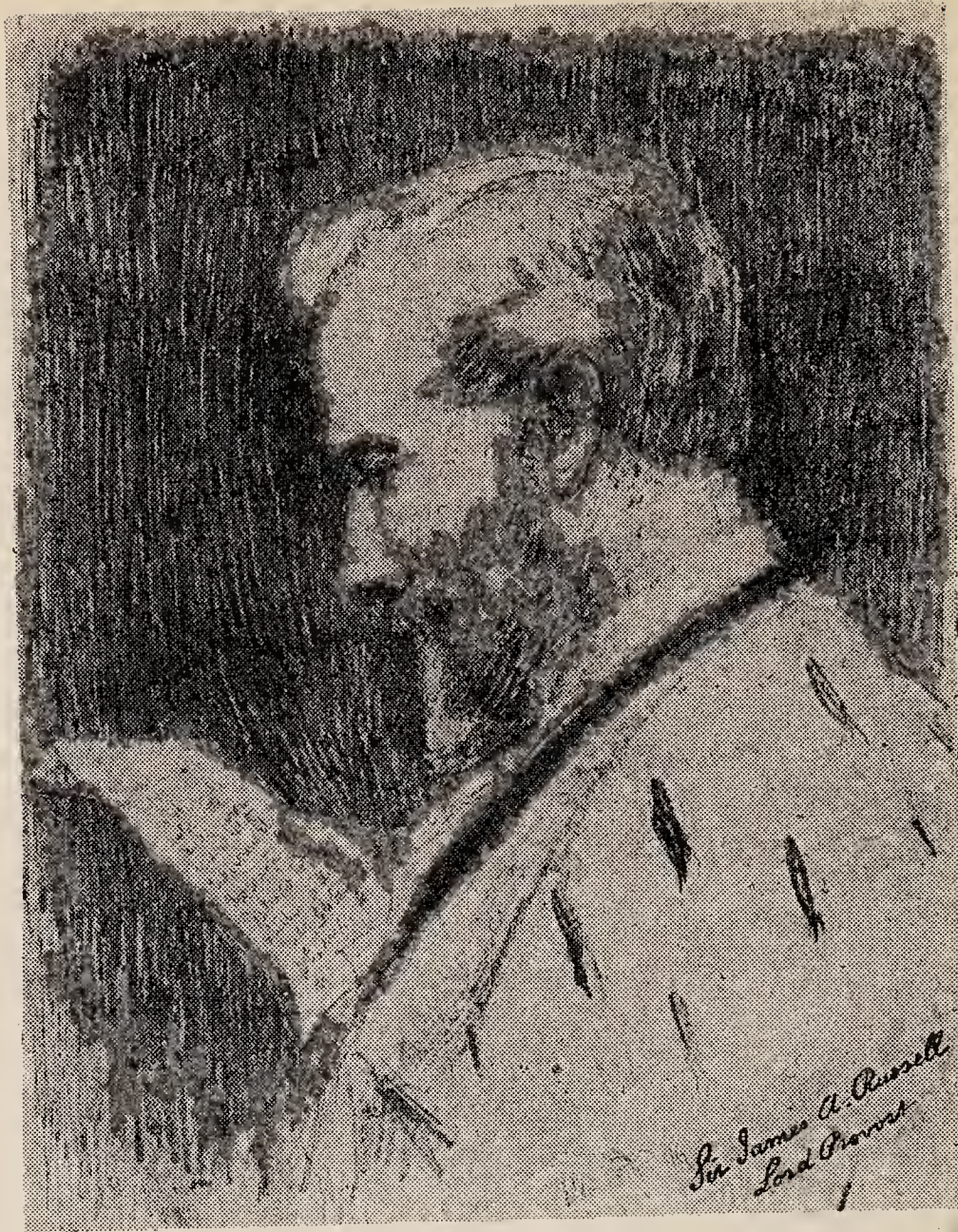
BANQUET GIVEN BY MR T. A. DOLLAR

TO THE

LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, and TOWN COUNCIL of the City of Edinburgh, and leading Members of the Medical and Veterinary Professions, in the Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Mr Dollar entertained at dinner in the evening, at the Balmoral Hotel, about eighty gentlemen. The company included the Lord Provost, Sir James Russell; Bailie M'Donald, Councillor Kinloch-Anderson, Dean of Guild Miller, Ex-Bailies Anderson, Colston, and Turnbull; Councillors Cranston, Cameron, Cubie, Dunlop, Gibson, Hay, Hunter, Mortimer, Robertson, Scott, Sloan, Walker, and Waterston, of the Dick Trust; Sir James Gibson-Craig, Bart.; Mr James Macdonald, secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society; Professor Chiene, Professor Bayley Balfour, Professor Cossar Ewart, Professor Struthers, Mr William Skinner, Town-Clerk; Mr Adam, City Chamberlain; Dr James, Dr Peter Young, Dr William Craig, Edinburgh; Mr Finlay Dun, Edinburgh; Robert Craig Dun, M.B., C.M.; Mr Middleton Rettie, advocate; Chief-Constable Henderson, Veterinary-Captain Moore and Captain Sherme, 12th Royal Lancers; the professors and members of the Dick College Staff, and the principal veterinarians in Scotland, including Messrs Rutherford, Fairbairn, M'Callum, and Moir, Edinburgh; Mr John Lawson, Manchester; Dr J. M'Call, in the unavoidable absence of his father, Professor M'Call, Glasgow; Mr A. Robb, Glasgow; Mr C. Cunningham, Slateford; Mr J. Borthwick, Kirkliston; Mr A. Pottie, Paisley; Mr A. F. Spreull, Dundee, &c.

Mr Dollar occupied the chair, and the croupiers were



Sir James A. Russell
Lord Provost



Bailie
Mr. Donald



Councillor
Kirkoch Anderson

Professor Mettam and Professor Aitken of the Dick Veterinary College.

After dinner, and the loyal and patriotic toasts, the Chairman proposed the toast of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the city, and the Dick Trust. To the wisdom, diligence, and energy of those who preside over the manifold interests of this fair city he ascribed in great part the enviable position which she holds amongst the cities of the world. Her natural attractions have been made the most of by new and appropriate buildings, and by embellishment of parks and gardens. Her health has been improved, and her death-rate reduced to a happily low average by removal of slums and by superior sanitation. The Lord Provost's medical training has been of special service in enabling him to carry forward important recent sanitary reforms. The varied educational establishments, which have conferred on the city a world-wide reputation, have been admirably utilised, and are being adapted to the wants of the great masses of the people. Her University is annually attended by upwards of 3000 students, more than half of whom are drawn from England, the colonies, and foreign countries. Her Dick College is under the special guardianship of the Council, who carefully and intelligently supervise its endowments, forward its widening interests, and encourage the students by medals and prizes. Her manufactures and trade are not so great as those of her western sister; but if she does not manufacture cottons, woollens, or hardware, she makes doctors, lawyers, and men of science, who become controlling spirits in every quarter of the globe.

The Lord Provost having left to receive the Duke and Duchess of York, who were arriving in Edinburgh *en route* from Balmoral, Bailie M'Donald responded, and referred especially to the work which the Corporation were doing in beautifying the city through the removal of its slums. He expressed his sense of the need of still further extending the bounds of the Dick College, so as to allow it more room to expand.

Mr William Skinner, W.S., Town Clerk, directed the attention of the guests to three pieces of plate presented to Professor Dick, and which had been placed on the table by their custodians, the Dick Trust.

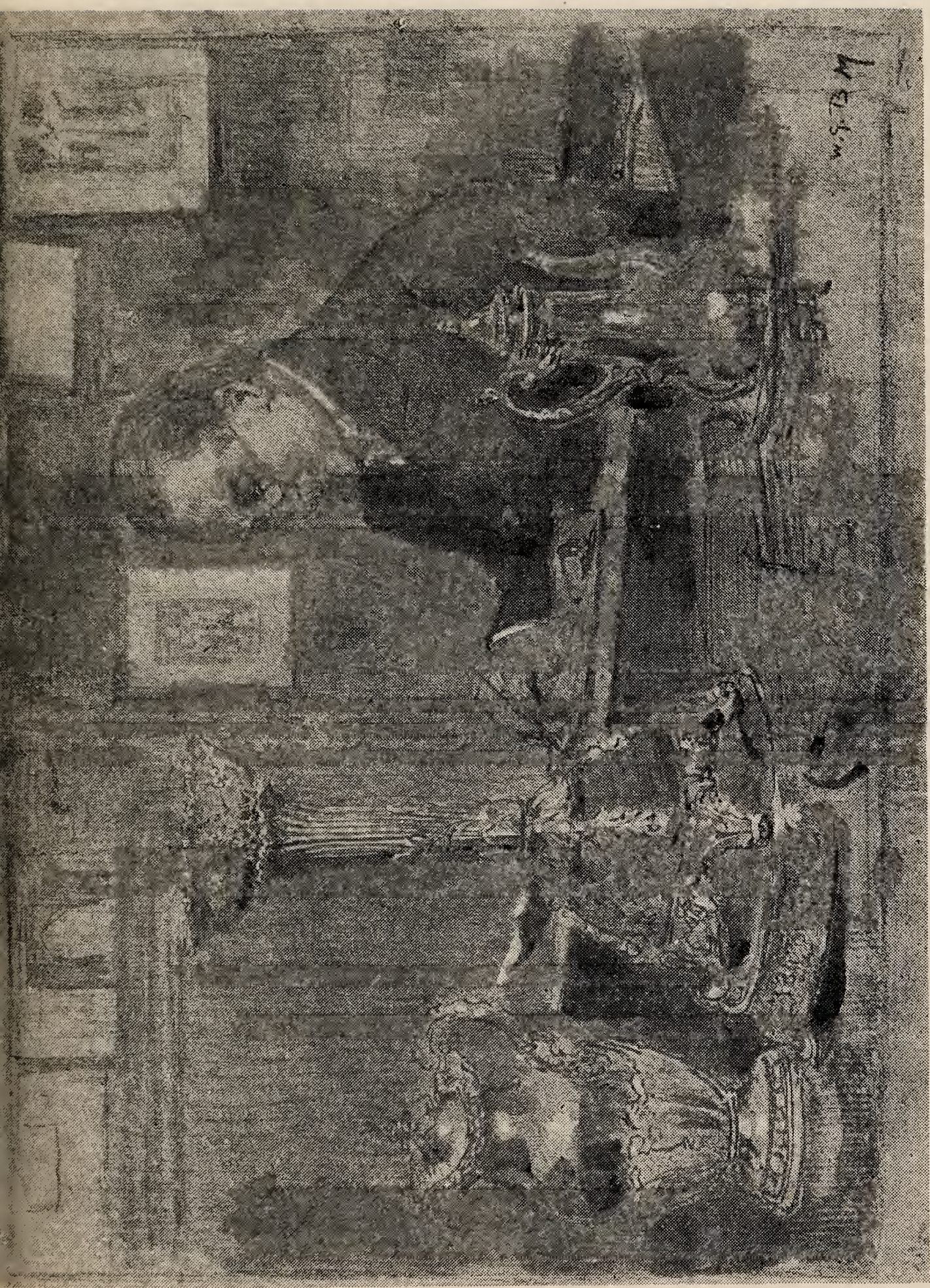
A claret jug, bearing the inscription :—“ Presented by Captain W. R. Ramsay to the Barnton Squadron, Royal Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry, in addition to a sweep-stake, to be shot for by the members from horseback with pistols—targets, 20 yards ; 30 subscribers ; and won by Mr William Dick. 22nd July 1831.”

A handsome silver epergne, with triangular pedestal, on the bar reliefs of which were severally embossed a group of horses, a group of cattle, and the subjoined inscription :—“ Presented to Professor Dick, Founder of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, by a number of his pupils, to testify their high sense of his scientific merits, his public spirit, and his private worth, as also in token of their heartfelt gratitude for the deep interest he has ever taken in their individual welfare, not only as regards their professional acquirements, but likewise in respect of their establishment in after life. 1839.”

A coffee pot, with the inscription :—“ Presented by The Royal Physical Society to William Dick, Esquire, as an expression of esteem for him as a man, and of gratitude for his valuable services during a period of fifteen years as the Society’s Honorary Treasurer. Edinburgh, 16th April 1851.”

Councillor Cranston proposed the toast of the University of Edinburgh and the medical profession. Edinburgh people, he said, hardly realised the position they occupied throughout the whole world in virtue of their University. Men who had gone forth from the University had caused its name to be so well known, that its graduates had a hearty reception in every part of the world.

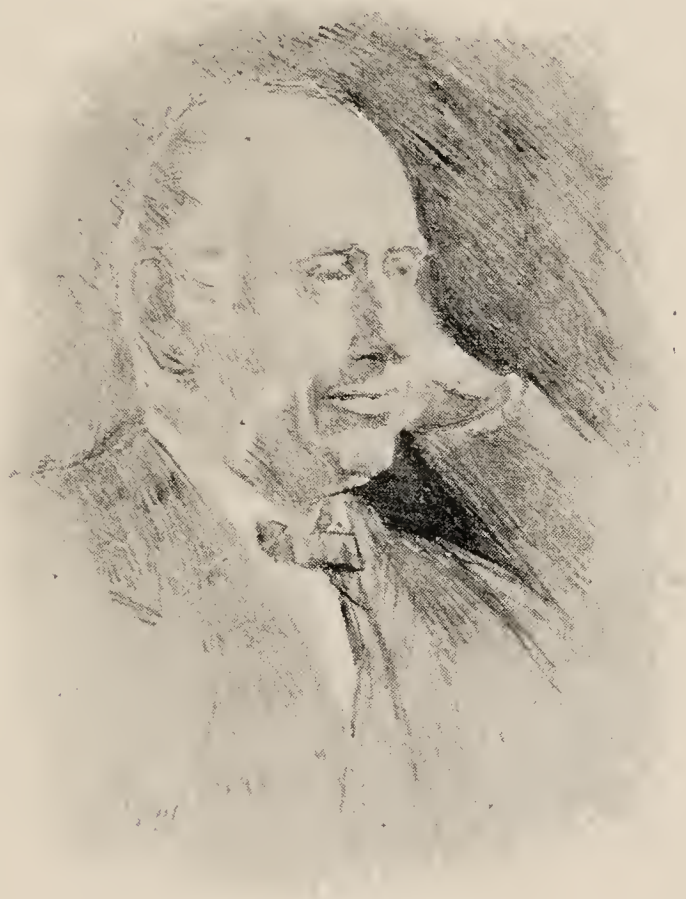
Professor Bayley Balfour, in responding for the University, and in noting how the University was regarded as the “ Town’s College,” said he could not help reflecting



WILLIAM SKINNER, ESQ., W.S.,
Clerk to the Dick Trustees,
CUSTODIER OF THE DICK PRESENTATION PLATE.

that the Dick College was also the adopted child of the town. He thought the conjunction of these at the present time was a very happy one, and there was no doubt that the bonds between the two might with mutual advantage be drawn a little more closely than they had been. Dr Craig responded for the medical profession.

Mr Finlay Dun proposed the toast of the Highland



MR FINLAY DUN.

and Agricultural Society. Since its institution, 1784, the Society, he stated, has been of national service in gathering and disseminating knowledge concerning Agriculture and cognate subjects. It has been the parent of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and of the Bath and West of England Society. It has also been the nursing-mother of many county and local societies. Its annual shows and transactions have been important and popular educators, have encouraged improvements in live stock and in the production of labour-saving implements and machinery. The help of the natural sciences was early invoked. Chemical,

Botanical, and Veterinary departments were formed. The latter was inaugurated as early as 1823, when the Society's patronage was extended to Professor Dick; medals were given to students successful in their classes, and premiums awarded for papers on live stock. In 1830 the Society nominated the principal Lecturers of the Medical School and several prominent medical practitioners in Edinburgh to examine Mr Dick's students, who had completed their studies, and granted them certificates to practice. On the formation of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1844, and their undertaking the granting of diplomas to students both in London and Edinburgh, the Highland Society gave up these veterinary examinations. Owing, however, to some unfortunate misunderstanding between Professor Dick and the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Society, in 1847, reconstituted its Examining Board. Amongst those who sat on that Board were Professor Goodsir, Professor Gairdner, Sir Douglas Maclagan, Professor Balfour, Professor Struthers, Professor Thomas Anderson, Dr G. Balfour, Dr Sellar, Dr Newbigging, Dr Affleck, and Dr William Craig. The examiners on Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and on Clinical work, which was early made a notable feature, included Mr T. A. Dollar, London; Mr John Lawson, Manchester; Mr Tom Taylor, Manchester; Mr Thomas Secker, Knaresborough; Professor Fearnley, Leeds; Mr Steele, Biggar; Mr Aitken, Kilmarnock; Mr Alexander Robinson, Greenock; Mr J. Borthwick, Kirkliston; and Mr C. Cunningham, Slateford. This Board did good service for upwards of thirty years; in 1881 an understanding was arrived at with the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; and these Highland Society's examinations ceased. During forty-five years certificates to practise had been granted to 1183 graduates; but now very fittingly there is only one portal through which candidates can enter the veterinary profession. Since giving up its Veterinary Examination, the

Society has devoted increasing attention to Agricultural education, to Forestry, and to the teaching of Dairy work ; in conjunction with the University it has arranged a curriculum embracing the principles and practice of Agriculture, and the sciences bearing upon it ; and grants to competent candidates certificates and diplomas. More recently the University has been induced to grant a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture. This development of education has doubtless minimised the distress in the farming community throughout Scotland, which certainly has not suffered so seriously as the corresponding classes throughout the midland and southern counties of England, in America, and in most other parts of the world.

Sir James Gibson-Craig, Bart., in replying, said that the numerous schemes of the Society had all of them good objects, but all did not equally commend themselves to every class of the members. The Directors' doings were subjected to a good deal of criticism, which, he hoped, did them good. Personally, he took much interest in the veterinary department, and amongst other new departures he highly approved of the increased attention paid to the training of shoeing-smiths. From ignorance, and from the idea of making the freshly-shod foot look smart, it was frequently senselessly cut and rasped, rendering it less fit to hold the shoe, and safely perform its important functions.

Mr James Macdonald, secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society, also replied to the toast, and said that if the Society was doing less for veterinary science now than it used to do, it was because the veterinary profession was doing more for itself.

Captain Sherme, 12th Royal Lancers, said he was glad that the great Agricultural Societies took such interest in horses. Their rational shoeing was most important, but he ventured to urge that their breaking did not receive sufficient attention. In his capacity of riding-master, and having handled some 6000 raw remounts in this country and in India, his experience led him to deprecate the ex-

cessive use of lunging, which prematurely wore out the young horses' legs. His first endeavour was to bit and mouth the horse so that he could be quickly and safely ridden.

Professor Struthers proposed "The Veterinary Profession." Towards the close of the forties he was frequently at the College, had many opportunities of meeting Mr Dick, and observing his practical tact; he well remembered Miss Dick, and the personal interest she took in everything relating to the College; he had much profitable intercourse with John Barlow, then Professor of Physiology and Pathology—a first-rate teacher, whose knowledge of minute anatomy and of the nature of disease was far in advance of his day. To men of this stamp the profession owes much of the progress it has since made. Its usefulness has been shown in many ways, notably in the recent successful stamping out of contagious animal plagues, and in the mitigation and prevention of other diseases. In these and other directions the veterinary profession will perform still more important services, and it merits State recognition for the furtherance of research into the problems of disease, and for the provision of laboratories and museums.

Veterinary-Captain Moore, 12th Royal Lancers, replying for the toast, expressed his belief that the army veterinary department, to which he had the honour to belong, afforded an index of the improvements and progress notable throughout the profession. It was more effectual in preserving the health of army horses; many serious diseases, such as glanders, specific ophthalmia, and mange, had practically been banished from army stables; and their educated, capable officers now enjoyed regimental rank.

Mr Richard Rutherford, Edinburgh, who also responded, was satisfied that the profession had in many ways made great progress, and it was bound, he said, to make still further progress. As Secretary for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Scotland, the recent regulations regarding the preliminary examinations, the extension of the curriculum to

four years, and the modifications of the examinations, arranged for the close in each year's study, had been narrowly watched by him. The enlarged scheme would undoubtedly bring into the profession young men of good education who could master and apply to practical use their scientific subjects. The teaching at the schools had become more comprehensive and scientific—the nature of disease was more thoroughly and accurately demonstrated. The schools had not as ample field as could be desired for extended clinical training, and for educating the men in practical tact; but the available opportunities were being made the best of, and any deficiencies could be made good by the students in the later years of their curriculum, acting during the summer months as assistants to competent practitioners.

The toast of Miss Dick's Trustees was coupled with the health of Professor Chiene.

Bailie Colston proposed bumpers for Mr Dollar, their Chairman and entertainer, a worthy pupil of the master whose life-work he had so well described that day, a successful practitioner who had imbibed a large share of the old professor's practical skill, as also of his independence and sagacity. The Town Council, as the trustees and guardians of the Dick College, had to thank Mr Dollar for the kindly interest he had so substantially exhibited in the school, and for the handsome entertainment of this evening.

Mr Dollar expressed his grateful thanks. Although in the main he had been successful, his earlier experiences were not very encouraging. At the close of his college career, having taken the certificate of the Highland and Agricultural Society, he proceeded to London, and learning that some young veterinarians were required for service in the Crimea, he sent in his name to the Veterinary Department. He was examined, and his examination, he was informed, both verbally and in writing, was perfectly satisfactory, and he was told that he would be gazetted forthwith. The examiner for the army—one of the vice-

presidents of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons—discovering that Mr Dollar held the Highland Society's certificate, pressed him to take also the diploma of the Royal College. Several letters were written on the subject, but the promised appointment was not made. The correspondence was accordingly forwarded to Mr Dick, and submitted by him to the Honourable Fox Maule, who, meanwhile, had become Minister of War, and who, after investigation, insisted on the resignation of the examiner. Mr Dollar was then offered the appointment, but something better presenting, he refused it. The Council of the Royal College at that period exercised much influence both at the Camden Town School and amongst the London practitioners, and this passage at arms between the College authorities and himself—an almost friendless stranger—added considerably to his difficulties in gaining a position. This old story illustrates how zealously Mr Dick exerted himself to forward the interests of his old pupils. He had looked forward for many years to being able to do something to show his regard and gratitude for the training and advantages he had received during his college pupilage. The instruction, the discipline, the example he had during these three years moulded, he said, his character and made him what he was. When he entered upon the serious details of practice in London, and had to compete with other practitioners, he appreciated more and more the lessons of his college days—turned to good use the old Professor's acute diagnosis of troublesome lamenesses, and found the benefit of John Barlow's teaching of pathology. In a large and varied practice outbreaks of disease are constantly taking place, the causes of which are not always easily discovered, and in such cases he frequently found the advantage of a knowledge of hygiene, and a study of the surroundings of our patients. As years had passed more consultations have presented themselves as to the methods of preventing disease. The increasing numbers of large establishments, where several hundreds of horses are

kept, afford interesting opportunity of noting individual idiosyncrasies in connection with disease, and also peculiarities in regard to the action of medicines. Experience testifies that success in the veterinary profession comes to the man who is armed at all points, is ready for any emergency, who can himself dare and do, and can, moreover, give good reasons for his practice and methods.

